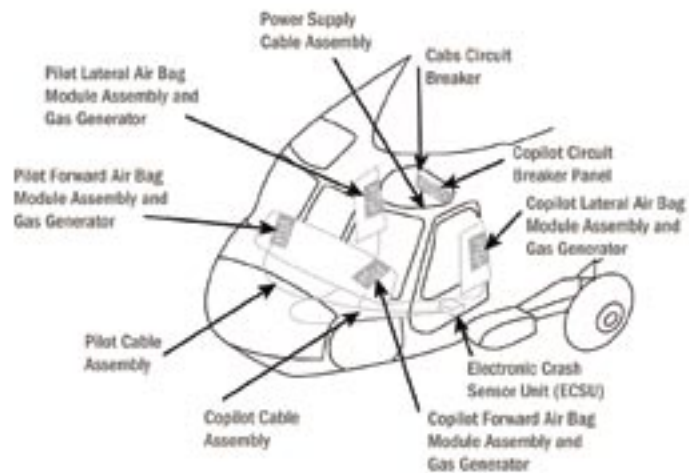


Cockpit Air Bags System (CABS)



Mission

Save lives and prevent or reduce injuries by protecting the aircrew from multiple cockpit strike hazards with a crash-activated, inflatable protection system.

Description and Specifications

There are multiple strike hazards present within the cockpit, including the cyclic and collective sticks, armor panels, instrument panels, glare shields, doors, and gun sights. The **Cockpit Air Bags System (CABS)** reduces flail and protects the aviator from strike hazards with the air bag. CABS is a crash-activated, inflatable protection system designed to supplement the current restraint systems on helicopters. Although the system concept is similar to automotive air bags, CABS has been designed specifically for rotary wing applications.

The crash sensor is a solid-state, electronic device that senses accelerations in three axes for a greater refinement of crash data inputs over its automotive counterparts. The gas generator/air bag assembly has been designed to operate within the confines of a helicopter cockpit, allowing extended occupant protection for secondary impacts, while allowing unobstructed egress from the aircraft after deployment. Qualification testing addressed safety and airworthiness requirements, as well as suitability for use in Army weapon systems. When a crash occurs, the electronic crash sensor unit senses it and triggers inflation of air bags, thus providing supplemental restraint for the Army aviator that prevents or mitigates injuries and death.